



Government agencies and private non-profits working together to restore migratory whooping cranes to eastern North America.

www.bringbackthecranes.org

July 27, 2006

We would like to invite you to review and comment on the draft Wisconsin Whooping Crane Management Plan and to attend a public Open House. Since 1999, Wisconsin has been part of efforts to restore a migratory whooping crane population in eastern North America, with a core breeding area in Wisconsin. Currently there are 64 wild whooping cranes reintroduced in this effort, with plans for 25-30 birds to be added to the population each year until it becomes self-sustaining, perhaps by 2020. At present, the only self-sustaining wild population of whooping cranes consists of less than 250 birds that breed in Canada and winter in Texas. Already there has been success: spring 2006 marked the first time in over 100 years that whooping crane chicks hatched in Wisconsin wetlands!

The “Open House” will be held from 3:00 pm to 5:30 pm and from 6:30 pm to 8:00 pm on Tuesday, August 29, 2006 in the All Purpose Room of the McMillan Memorial Library, 490 East Grand Ave, Wisconsin Rapids. It will be an informal setting which provides you with an opportunity to ask questions, express concerns, react to the Plan being developed and even make suggestions to the technical experts from the Department of Natural Resources, the United States Fish and Wildlife Service and the International Crane Foundation. There will not be a formal presentation, but rather several stations set up designed to focus on particular aspects of the whooping crane plan.

Comments on the draft Whooping Crane Management Plan are being accepted from **August 11 to September 5, 2006. The draft is available at**

<http://dnr.wi.gov/org/land/er/birds/wcrane/wcraneplan.htm> Comments can be submitted online or mailed to Beth Goodman, DNR PO Box 7921, Madison, WI 53707. The Plan is a guidance tool specific to released and wild-hatched cranes, for use by those individuals and groups charged with maintaining habitat quality, assessing state population goals, monitoring and managing crane activities, addressing landowner needs, developing ecotourism opportunities, and educating the public. In this Plan, management strategies and protocol recommendations are being developed to maintain a high level of protection and ensure future success of whooping cranes in Wisconsin, while considering the needs and interests of state citizens and communities.

We hope to hear from you about this exciting endeavor and to see you on August 29th.

Sincerely,

Signe Holtz, Director
Endangered Resources
Wisconsin DNR

Louise Clemency, Supervisor
Ecological Services
US Fish & Wildlife Service

Jim Hook, President
International Crane Foundation
Baraboo, WI

Founding members of WCEP:

◆International Whooping Crane Recovery Team ◆United States Fish & Wildlife Service ◆Operation Migration Inc.
◆Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources ◆USGS Patuxent Wildlife Research Center ◆International Crane Foundation
◆National Fish & Wildlife Foundation ◆Natural Resources Foundation of Wisconsin ◆USGS National Wildlife Health Center